

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for use in knotting a necktie comprising

a collar comprised of:

a left top side fixed to a right top side;

a left side fixed to the left top side, wherein the left side is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to left top side;

a right side fixed to the right top side, wherein the right side is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to the right top side;

wherein the left side lies between a first protrusion and a second protrusion, so that the left side in combination with the first and the second protrusions form a left indentation;

wherein the right side lies between a third protrusion and a fourth protrusion, so that the right side in combination with the third and fourth protrusions forms a right indentation;

wherein the left side is fixed to the left top side through the first protrusion; and

and wherein the right side is fixed to the right top side through the third protrusion.

~~a first member;~~

~~a second member; and~~

~~a third member; and~~

~~wherein the first member has a first end and a second end and the first member has an indentation at both the first end and the second end.~~

2. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising

a hanger loop fixed to the left top side and to the right top side of the collar substantially at the location where the left top side is fixed to the right top side.

~~An apparatus comprising~~

~~a first member;~~

~~a second member; and~~

~~a third member; and~~

~~wherein the first member is in the shape of a channel.~~

3. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising

a Y-shaped device having a top portion including a first end and a second end, and a base having a third end;

wherein the first end of the top portion of the Y-shaped device is fixed to the left side of the collar, substantially near the second protrusion of the collar; and

wherein the second end of the top portion of the Y-shaped device is fixed to the right side of the collar, substantially near the fourth protrusion of the collar.

~~An apparatus comprising~~

~~a first member;~~

~~a second member;~~

~~a third member;~~

~~and a hanger which is part of the first member.~~

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein

the top portion of the Y-shaped device is comprised of first and second members,

and the base of the Y-shaped device is comprised of third and fourth members; and

wherein the first member is fixed to the third member so that the first member is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to the third member;

wherein the second member is fixed to the fourth member so that the second member is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to the fourth member;

and wherein the third and fourth members are substantially parallel to one another.

~~An apparatus comprising~~

~~a first member;~~

~~a second member; and~~

~~a third member;~~

~~wherein the second member is comprised of a first portion and a second portion; and
wherein the first portion is attached to a first end of the first member and the second portion is attached to a second end of the first member.~~

5. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein

the collar has a bottom side having an opening leading to a channel, wherein the channel is bordered by an extension;

and wherein a tie can be inserted into the channel and hung from the extension.

~~The apparatus of claim 4 wherein~~

~~the second member is attached to the middle of the first member.~~

6. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3

wherein the collar has a bottom side;

wherein the collar is substantially solid;

wherein the collar has a slot near its bottom side;

wherein the first end of the top portion of the Y-shaped device is fixed to a first end of a connecting member and the second end of the top portion of the Y-shaped device is fixed to a second end of the connecting member;

and wherein the connecting member is inserted into the slot of the collar and fixed to the collar to fix the Y-shaped device to the collar.

~~The apparatus of claim 1 wherein~~

~~the third member is a composite part of the second member.~~

7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein

the collar is substantially a wire frame.

~~The apparatus of claim 6 wherein~~

~~the third member is a composite part of the second member and acts as a handle.~~

8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein

the collar is substantially solid.

~~The apparatus of claim 7 wherein~~

~~a meeting point of the second and third members is curved.~~

9. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein

the top portion of the Y-shaped device is connected to the base of the Y-shaped device substantially at a knot tie point;

and wherein the distance from the center of the left side of the collar to the center of the right side of the collar, the distance from the center of the left side of the collar to the knot tie point of the Y-shaped device, and the distance from the center of the right side of the collar to

the knot tie point of the Y-shaped device are approximately equal.

~~The apparatus in claim 1 wherein~~

~~a tie hanger is part of the first member.~~

10. (currently amended) A method comprising

providing a collar comprised of:

a left top side fixed to a right top side;

a left side fixed to the left top side, wherein the left side is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to left top side;

a right side fixed to the right top side, wherein the right side is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to the right top side;

wherein the left side lies between a first protrusion and a second protrusion, so that the left side in combination with the first and the second protrusions form a left indentation;

wherein the right side lies between a third protrusion and a fourth protrusion, so that the right side in combination with the third and fourth protrusions forms a right indentation;

wherein the left side is fixed to the left top side through the first protrusion; and

and wherein the right side is fixed to the right top side through the third protrusion;

and further comprising tying a neck tie by placing at least a first part of the neck tie in the left indentation and simultaneously placing at least a second part of the neck tie in the right indentation.

~~using a first member and a second member to form a tie loop for a tie;~~

~~using a meeting point of a third member and the second member to form a tie knot for a tie; and~~
~~using the third member as a handle.~~

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 further comprising

providing a hanger loop fixed to the left top side and to the right top side of the collar substantially at the location where the left top side is fixed to the right top side.

~~removing the tie by unwrapping the tie from the first member;~~

12 (currently amended) The method of claim ~~11~~ 10 further comprising

providing a Y-shaped device having a top portion including a first end and a second end, and a base having a third end;

wherein the first end of the top portion of the Y-shaped device is fixed to the left side of the collar, substantially near the second protrusion of the collar; and

wherein the second end of the top portion of the Y-shaped device is fixed to the right side of the collar, substantially near the fourth protrusion of the collar.

~~pulling the first, second, and third members upward away from the tie knot.~~

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 12 further ~~wherein~~ comprising

the top portion of the Y-shaped device is comprised of first and second members,

and the base of the Y-shaped device is comprised of third and fourth members; and

wherein the first member is fixed to the third member so that the first member is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to the third member;

wherein the second member is fixed to the fourth member so that the second member is

at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect fourth member;

and wherein the third and fourth members are substantially parallel to one another.

~~wearing the tie:~~

14 (currently amended) The method of claim 10 further ~~wherein comprising~~

the collar has a bottom side having an opening leading to a channel, wherein the channel is bordered by an extension;

and wherein a tie can be inserted into the channel and hung from the extension.

~~hanging the tie:~~

15 (currently amended) The method of claim 10 further ~~wherein comprising~~

the collar has a bottom side;

wherein the collar is substantially solid;

wherein the collar has a slot near its bottom side;

wherein the first end of the top portion of the Y-shaped device is fixed to a first end of a connecting member and the second end of the top portion of the Y-shaped device is fixed to a second end of the connecting member;

and further comprising inserting the connecting member into the slot of the collar and fixing the connecting member to the collar to fix the Y-shaped device to the collar.

~~displaying the tie:~~

16. (new) The method of claim 10 wherein

the collar is substantially a wire frame.

17. (new) The method of claim 10 wherein

the collar is substantially solid.

18. (new) The method of claim 12 wherein

the top portion of the Y-shaped device is connected to the base of the Y-shaped device substantially at a knot tie point;

and wherein the distance from the center of the left side of the collar to the center of the right side of the collar, the distance from the center of the left side of the collar to the knot tie point of the Y-shaped device, and the distance from the center of the right side of the collar to the knot tie point of the Y-shaped device are approximately equal.

19. (new) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein

the first, second, third, and fourth members are elongated members;

the first and second members are substantially equal in length; and

the third and fourth members are substantially equal in length.

20. (new) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein

the first, second, third, and fourth members are elongated members;

the first and second members are substantially equal in length; and

the third and fourth members are substantially equal in length.